



The Old Stone Wall

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State of New Hampshire, Department of Cultural Resources,
Division of Historical Resources

Summer 2006

TWO-HUNDREDTH STATE HISTORICAL MARKER ANNOUNCED

James L. Garvin, *State Architectural Historian*



Celebrating the "Wildwood" Marker. (L to R): Bob Patterson, Bob Thibault, Pat Blevens, James Garvin, Eunice Woods, Raymond Burton, Van McLeod, Nicole Ashton.

Courtesy photograph provided by Executive Councilor Raymond S. Burton.

On June 9, 2006, DHR staff joined local officials, Executive Councilor Raymond S. Burton, Cultural Resources Commissioner Van McLeod, and marker sponsor Eunice Woods to celebrate the pending placement of the two-hundredth New Hampshire state historical marker. The ceremony took place at the site of the lost village of Wildwood in the town of Easton. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Wildwood was one of many logging villages that were scattered throughout the White Mountain region. From here, loggers stripped much

of the forest from the northern flanks of Mount Moosilauke. The village contained several sawmills and shingle mills, a school, a post office, a boarding house, and several private homes.

"We couldn't be more thrilled that this milestone in the marker program will honor Eunice and the history of Wildwood," said Jim McConaha, DHR's director. Eunice Woods is perhaps the last person to remember remnants of the logging culture of Wildwood. At age 84, she recalls the woodsmen who in their youth drove logs down the Wild Ammonoosuc

River to the Connecticut River, and in later years frequented her grandfather's general store where they regaled listeners with tales of adventure and hardship on the river. In 1933, Wildwood became the site of the first Civilian Conservation Corps camp to be established in New Hampshire.

The state's marker program was authorized by state law in 1955. The first marker to be placed, in 1958, commemorated the short-lived Indian Stream Republic, established in 1832 on territory that was then claimed by both the United States and Canada and now lies within the township of Pittsburg, New Hampshire. In the succeeding forty-eight years, citizens have requested markers to interpret historical figures, industrial and manufacturing sites, notable buildings, bridges, and roads, natural phenomena, and such significant events as

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CULTURAL RESOURCES**

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Commissioner

The DHR is a state agency, supported by the State of New Hampshire, by the federal Historic Preservation Fund (through a matching grant administered by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior), and by donated funds and services. In addition to its state functions, the DHR is also responsible for administering the federal preservation program in New Hampshire.

Welcome Back!



Chris St. Louis.
Photograph by Richard Boisvert.

Some say the only constant in life is change. That is certainly true at the Division of Historical Resources, and in a very positive way.

This month we welcome back Chris St. Louis, as our newest Program Assistant. Chris has served us ably over the years as our data technician, who began the important process of putting our archaeological and architectural records into database format, increasing access for consultants, researchers and the public.

A Presidential Scholar with a BA in Anthropology from UNH, Chris will be providing program support for the DHR staff, clients, consultants and the public. With Chris on board we have, for the first time in many years, a fully staffed office at the DHR. Welcome back, Chris!

James McConaha
*Director, Division of Historical Resources
NH State Historic Preservation Officer*

CURATOR'S REPORT

The interior of the State House is being painted, and paintings are coming off the walls floor by floor as work progresses. We are taking the opportunity to photograph each one, at eye level and in color, and to study the them front and back for evidences of poor condition. Each painting is also

being cleaned, front and back, for the first time in many years.

Four portraits discovered in storage last year have been conserved by the New England Document Conservation Center, at Andover, Massachusetts, thanks to funding from the Joint Legislative Historical Committee. Among the "found" items is a portrait of **Governor Henry Keyes** (1917-1919), which he gave to the State. Governor Keyes went on to serve three terms as U.S. Senator for New Hampshire (1919-1937). Other portraits are large photographs of **Captain Frank Butler**, Fifth NH Volunteers, who fell mortally wounded at Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864; U.S. Senator (1867-1873) **James Patterson**, who taught astronomy and meteorology at Dartmouth College, 1854-1865, and served as superintendent of public instruction for state schools, 1881-1893; and **State Representative James French**, of Moultonborough, New Hampshire, who served as chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, 1897-1917. French owned and operated The Old Country Store in Moultonborough 1869-1884,"when he retired to pursue politics," according to Jane Rice of Moultonborough.

Russell Bastedo
State Curator



Think of it as a permanent metal bumper sticker to show YOU care about New Hampshire heritage!

For more information, go to
<http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/moose.html>

DHR's Preservation Planning Program

The practice of historic preservation has grown by leaps and bounds over the last fifty years. It is no longer just about saving old buildings – historic preservation has become an integral component of broader public policies and land use planning strategies. It is about protecting community character, quality of life, and a sense of place. Many of us hear planners, architects, and even developers talk about curbing sprawl and building better communities – they promote principles such as mixed uses, quality buildings, good design, strong civic cores, preservation of open space and natural resources, walkable neighborhoods, and diverse housing options. Those principles could be used to describe nearly every historic community in New Hampshire – we just need to make sure our historic communities are protected! In short, preservation is good planning.

It is within this context that the DHR's Preservation Planning Program operates. Since its inception, the Division of Historical Resources has worked hard to foster historic preservation at the local level. Today, there are more than 55 historic district commissions and 35 heritage commissions throughout the state, that implement historic preservation at the local level by overseeing the community's collection of historic resources through a variety of preservation programs.

Yet many communities remain unaware of the breadth and variety of tools that are available to them to protect historic resources. As a result, communities throughout the state are needlessly vulnerable to losing their important historic resources to demolition and incompatible construction, which collectively can slowly erode community character and identity. Even those communities with preservation programs in place might benefit from additional complementary programs, stronger ordinances and

regulations, or professional training for commission members.

This is where the DHR's Preservation Planning staff can help. As the DHR's new Preservation Planner, I am responsible for assisting and encouraging local governments to become strong advocates for historic preservation planning. To do this, I am, of course, always available to correspond with you via phone or email, but I am also available to travel to your community to meet with you. Our meetings can cover many different topics, such as:

- Establishing heritage commissions or local historic districts
- Legal and operational issues for historic district commissions
- New Hampshire's Certified Local Government Program
- Establishing design guidelines
- Establishing demolition review ordinances

Or, it can simply be an overview of the available tools aimed at maintaining and preserving community character.

Some of the other initiatives in the works include the establishment of an e-mail listserv for members of heritage and historic district commissions and preservation planning training for members of the Regional Planning Commission staff. You will hear more about these exciting initiatives in future issues of the Old Stone Wall. I look forward to getting to know all of you and helping you strengthen preservation planning in your communities. I can be reached at 603-271-6628 or Emily.Paulus@dcr.nh.gov.

Emily Paulus
Preservation Planner

We are pleased to announce the creation of a New Hampshire Heritage and Historic District Commission Email Forum!



The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, with the assistance of Plymouth State University, has developed a free email forum (or listserv) for heritage and historic district commission members in New Hampshire. It is an incredible resource for the sharing of information, ideas, questions, and experiences related to historic preservation in New Hampshire.

If you are interested in joining this forum, you can subscribe by sending an email to

**psu-heritage-commission@toto.plymouth.edu
with just the word "subscribe" in the subject heading**

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Emily Paulus, Preservation Planner
603-271-6628
Emily.Paulus@dcr.nh.gov**

State Historic Preservation Plan Update

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is bringing the State Historic Preservation Plan up to date, reflecting on the accomplishments of the last five years, and looking ahead to the next five years (2006-2010).

The new edition of the plan that we are preparing will be presented to our federal partner, the National Park Service, to maintain New Hampshire's participation in the national historic preservation program. NPS provides 60% of the financial support for the Division of Historical Resources with a grant from the federal Historic Preservation Fund, which is matched by a combination of state and private funds, donations, and volunteered services.

We want the new five-year plan to be a practical guide that will promote productive responses to preservation threats and opportunities. To be successful, it needs to be visible, useful, and accessible. We seek your guidance to be sure it addresses an appropriate range of preservation activity for the New Hampshire state historic preservation program, while taking into account the roles of our public and private preservation partners. We intend to post the plan on our web site and then, with the help of public input, continually update it. Please study the following draft of the proposed Goals and Objectives for the 2006-2010 plan, and send your thoughts and recommendations to:

- Preservation@dcr.nh.gov
Subject: Preservation Plan
- or write to us at:
- Preservation Plan
NH Division of Historical Resources
19 Pillsbury Street
Concord NH 03301-3570

NH State Historic Preservation Plan Goals and Objectives, 2006-2010

1. Survey and Recognition

New Hampshire has a diverse and rich variety of historical and archaeological resources. Survey,

evaluation, and recognition efforts must accelerate so that a fuller understanding of New Hampshire's past, as documented by these resources, can be shared with our citizens and visitors. Particular strategies will be to:

- Broaden survey and inventory of the state's historical and archaeological resources
- Expand DHR survey and inventory database and make information available to a wider audience
- Identify and integrate relevant new topics into the historic contexts used by the Division of Historical Resources
- Organize system for DHR data storage and migration to facilitate future use and accessibility
- Integrate survey and inventory information with GIS systems, including NH GRANIT, while maintaining confidentiality of protected data categories such as archaeological site locations
- Encourage nominations to the National Register and the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places
- Bring attention to specific resources and their stewards through awards and other recognition

2. Education and Outreach

To provide the public with a greater appreciation of and responsibility for the state's cultural resources, more educational initiatives relating to historic preservation must be initiated, and especially to:

- Continue coordination with the University System of New Hampshire to establish a post-secondary and graduate program of historic preservation and heritage studies
- Cooperate with others to develop school programs and/or special materials (K-12, college-level and

graduate programs) focusing on historic preservation

- Provide training for life-long learners through programs, conferences and workshops addressing both above-ground and archaeological resources
- Create the position of DHR Education Coordinator to organize and oversee DHR educational programs
- Improve DHR web site to better provide more preservation information to public
- Develop and produce new publications, pamphlets, videos, DVDs, exhibits, and other materials to extend the preservation message
- Erect new historical markers, signage, and other interpretive materials to inform the public about specific places and resources
- Participate in relevant trade shows and related constituent outreach initiatives

3. Planning and Protection

Preservation planning and a preservation ethic need to be integrated into decision-making on a state, regional, and local level. Specific steps to be taken include to:

- Develop DHR contracts for services of architectural historians, historical architects, and engineers to assist with project planning, technical assistance, and federal/state project reviews
- Encourage the creation of new and strengthen existing Certified Local Governments, Historic District Commissions, Heritage Commissions, and Main Street programs to address local preservation concerns
- Encourage the adoption and use of preservation planning tools such as demolition review ordinances, neighborhood heritage districts, and architectural design review

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State Historic Preservation Plan Update

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- Encourage existing historic district and heritage commissions to update and improve their ordinances, regulations, and rules of procedure, and to establish design guidelines
- Strengthen existing municipal master plans by encouraging the addition of historic preservation chapters
- With the preservation community, seek legislation to make a historic preservation chapter (RSA 674:2, III., (h) a required rather than optional Master Plan component; and expand the purpose of the chapter to embrace the economic and community development potential of historic preservation and rehabilitation
- Provide training/workshops for local planners, elected officials and other decision makers
- Strengthen public involvement in Section 106 and state historic preservation project reviews
- Encourage proper treatment of historical places
- Support sustainable land use and promote reinvestment in existing infrastructure
- Identify key properties for protection/preservation through easements or purchase
- When required by grant or program conditions, serve as grantee, steward, and/or monitor, as appropriate, for significant historic properties
- Work with state agencies and organizations to incorporate historic preservation concerns into planning initiatives
- Strengthen links with conservation, agriculture, forestry, tourism, economic development, planning, affordable housing and social services organizations
- Coordinate and cooperate with local historical societies, the New Hampshire Historical Society, and

the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance on heritage and historic preservation projects and programs

- Provide materials and best examples concerning the proper treatment of historical properties, and curation of objects and artifacts associated with historic resources
- Reassess the New Hampshire archaeological site prediction model
- Work toward improved stewardship of state-owned historic sites and increase the range of their public benefits
- Create the position of DHR Special Projects Manager to develop and manage special projects to protect, preserve and enhance the State's unique historical resources

4. Funding and Incentives

For any initiatives to be effective, additional sources of funding and/or incentives must be mobilized to support historic preservation efforts. Particular efforts will be made to:

- Encourage the use of federal Preservation Tax Incentives
- Support the use of state historic preservation tax incentives and easements
- Expand the use and scope of Certified Local Government (CLG) grants
- Administer the state conservation license plate (Moose Plate) grants, and provide assistance and support to stewards of eligible publicly-owned properties in applying for the grants
- Develop state grant program for barns and other agricultural properties
- Assist and support applicants seeking funding for historic preservation and archaeological projects from public and private programs
- Assist granting agencies in reviewing and awarding funding to New Hampshire archaeological, historic preservation and conservation projects

- Provide monitoring and technical assistance for publicly funded historic preservation projects
- Support development of a consultant service program for historic properties

To be successful, most of these goals and objectives will require partnerships with other entities such as other state agencies, Certified Local Governments, Historic District and Heritage Commissions, the Conservation License Plate program, the Land & Community Heritage Investment Program, Main Street programs, Regional Planning Commissions, public and private educational institutions, including the University System of New Hampshire, municipalities, and many of the non-profit organizations in the state that are concerned with issues including preservation, planning, education, the environment and natural resources, sustainability, agriculture, land conservation, transportation, tourism, economic and community development, affordable housing, social services, accessibility, and others which affect New Hampshire's quality of life.

“...it is again no question of expediency or feeling whether we shall preserve the buildings of past times or not. We have no right whatever to touch them. They are not ours. They belong partly to those who built them, and partly to all the generations of mankind who are to follow us.”

John Ruskin, from “the Lamp of Memory” in his *Seven Lamps of Architecture* (1848).
(italics in original)

Project Archaeology

This winter and spring the Project Archeology program brought activities to several schools and to White Mountain National Forest staff. About seventy-five students at **Rundlett Middle School in Concord** considered the wonders of early cultures in New Hampshire, and some of the ways people learn about them through archaeology. This presentation occurred while they studied the exotic world of archaeology in Egypt at school, so that they could begin to make connections to archaeology at home. Interest and participation was high, and students particularly enjoyed handling archaeological equipment and examining teaching kits which include artifacts from New Hampshire and other areas of the United States. Rundlett social studies teacher Usha Bailey hopes to make this a regular event, and several student follow-up letters suggested careers in archaeology may be in the offing.

Seventh grade teacher Patricia Byrne from **Pelham Memorial School** also arranged for a day of presentations about archaeology for students in her school. These young people were able to connect what they were already learning in their history, social studies, and science curricula to the story of New Hampshire in new ways. For these students, the most meaningful part of the day was examining the cultural materials left behind by people in New Hampshire hundreds or thousands of years ago. Project Archaeology has been invited back to Pelham as well.

At **Kearsarge Regional High School** the focus of presentation was somewhat different for the annual Awareness Day. Here, the celebration of various living cultures, and exposure to the broad spectrum of future career and learning opportunities was emphasized. Students were keen to learn about how to study material remains responsibly, and how to share and protect resources with future

generations. About 50 students selected this activity from a broad catalogue of opportunities occurring that day.

Perhaps the greatest challenge but the most energizing presentation was at **Dondero School Science Day** in Portsmouth. About 30 students, some as young as six years old, pursued their lifelong interest in archaeology and learned more about the science and math one needs to know and understand to be an avocational or a professional archeologist. Many future writers learned about Field Books for scientific journaling too. There is no doubt that these children will help their parents and friends appreciate the information available through archeology, and will be the first to say that one should never remove a piece of the New Hampshire story from an archaeological site! This group asked outstanding questions, and demonstrated an ignited passion for scientific inquiry. Project Archaeology was quite popular, holding its own with the NASA moon rock presentation, and the interactive giant whale activity.

Switching gears entirely, a Project Archaeology Workshop geared for adult program presenters and teachers was conducted in the **White Mountain National Forest**, at the Colbath Barn. Here, White Mountain staff responsible for the implementation of summer activities and interactive programs of all kinds were introduced to *Intrigue of the Past*, the thoughtfully prepared activity book which structures the responsible integration of archaeology into learning and fun activities.

These activities are relevant to people of every age, but are particularly suited to the inquisitive and adventurous in the six to eighteen demographic. The workshop was an excellent way to bring archaeologists, educators, and summer activity leaders together to work cooperatively to enjoy what archaeology has to share, while protecting the resources for generations to come. The activity book is prepared primarily for teachers, but the activities are adaptable and fun, and lend

themselves to summer enjoyment too. The curriculum addresses many challenging questions for staff who want to share the historical and prehistoric resources of the forest responsibly. The activities help children approach resources with a greater appreciation, to ensure that the resources are not vandalized, or perhaps taken home because they are so valued. The dialogue at the workshop helped frame a way for foresters, educators, biologists, geologists, historians and archaeologists to work together with a greater understanding of how everyone's expertise can supplement outstanding program opportunities in some of the most beautiful areas of our state. The Project Archaeology Program was greatly enhanced by the location, the Russell Colbath Farm, where participants thoroughly enjoyed the site tour and the story of the "woman who left the light on."

New workshops are being planned, and updated information is available at <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/>, or at <http://www.projectarchaeology.org/> The New Hampshire Project Archaeology Coordinator, Pat Blevens, is available at 603-271-3559 or Pat.Blevens@dcn.nh.gov.

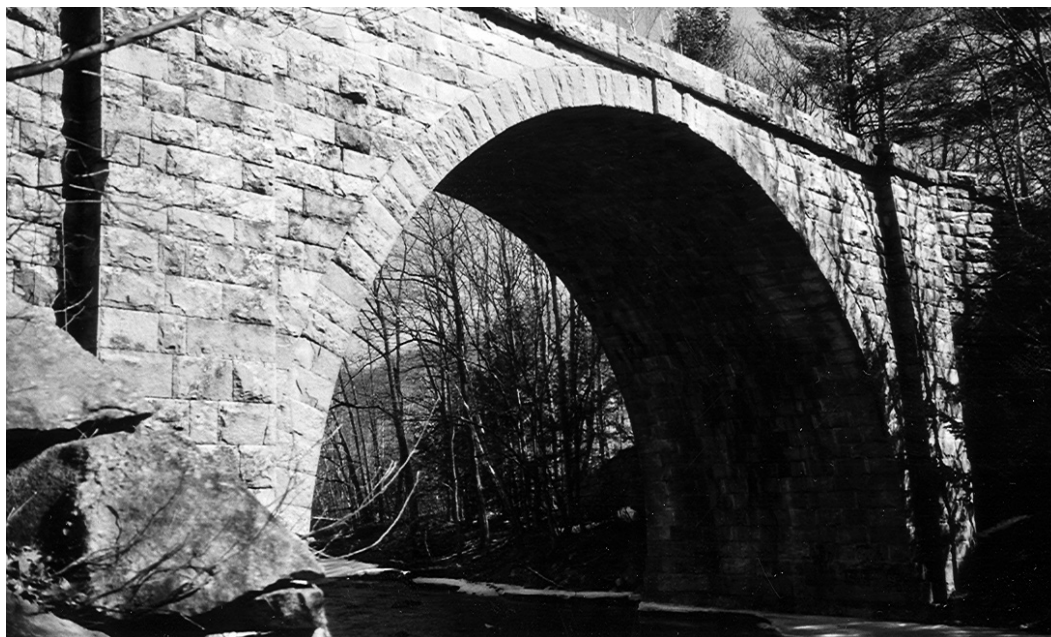
Pat Blevens
Program Assistant
Project Archaeology Coordinator



*New Hampshire 2006
educational opportunities*

SCRAP
**State Conservation and
Rescue Archaeology Program:**
<http://www.nhscrap.org/>
and
Project Archaeology Program:
[http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/
project_archaeology.pdf](http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/project_archaeology.pdf)

Keene Arched Bridge Wins Friends



Cheshire Railroad stone arch bridge, Keene, NH.

Photograph by James L. Garvin.

One of the largest stone arch bridges ever built in New Hampshire has gained the support of a local committee and city and state officials. The Cheshire Railroad arched bridge in South Keene, completed in 1847, is the focus of efforts to improve its care and enhance its recreational potential. The bridge is owned by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) and administered by the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) as a trail crossing over the Branch River.

With a span of ninety feet and a height of fifty, the bridge is the most impressive of many remarkable structures along the corridor of the Cheshire Railroad. Built under the supervision of engineers Lucian Tilton and W. S. Whitwell, the Cheshire surpassed all other rail lines in New Hampshire in its mastery of masonry construction and its bold use of stone arches for its many stream crossings. The line included twenty arched bridges and culverts along its 43-mile route, as well as more than a

hundred stone box culverts and cattle underpasses and impressive cuts and fills.

Acquired by the Boston & Maine Railroad in 1900, the line was officially abandoned along most of its length in 1972. In the early 1990s, NHDOT purchased approximately forty linear miles of the railroad, turning the corridor over to DRED's Trails Bureau. Because a widened and heavily traveled Route 101 has severed the bridge from more northerly sections of the right-of-way in Keene, the span is currently limited in its usefulness as a trail crossing. But it is a favorite of rock climbers, who are attracted by its huge, rusticated stones and unmortared joints.

In 2004, historian David R. Proper of Keene, then a member of DHR's State Historical Resources Council, notified state agencies that the bridge was in deteriorating condition. Saplings are growing in some of the narrow joints, their roots expanding between the stones, and larger trees cover the flanks of the bridge, threatening to dislodge stonework if they are toppled by the wind. The

earthen fill over the great arch is being eroded by the tires of all-terrain vehicles. Water is saturating the structure, hanging as icicles from the soffit of the arch in winter.

Reacting to the situation, Philip H. Faulkner, Jr., of Keene convened an ad hoc committee of representatives from eight local organizations in late 2005 to study and protect the bridge. After meeting with DHR staff, that committee began to develop a proposal to

seek a professional inspection and an engineering study of the structure.

The bridge was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on March 22, 2006, potentially qualifying it for various grants. On April 6th, the Keene City Council voted unanimously to support the local committee's plans to develop a conservation and maintenance plan for the bridge. On April 13th, members of the Keene committee, together with Keene planning director Rhett Lamb, presented their plan to DOT, DRED and Federal Highway Administration officials at a meeting in Concord.

The ad hoc committee proposes a two-stage process. First, funding will be raised to employ consultants to inspect the bridge, evaluate the effects of vegetative growth and water infiltration, and recommend treatment. With that report in hand, separate funding will be sought for remedial work where needed, and a plan for interpreting and maintaining the bridge will be developed by a partnership that will include the eight Keene based organizations, NHDOT, DRED, and DHR.

*James L. Garvin
State Architectural Historian*

And the rains came...



Photograph by Deborah Gagne.

Even the DHR was not spared from the heavy Spring rains of 2006. Here, historic photos and slides that suffered water damage at DHR headquarters are being sorted and hung to dry by fast-working DHR staff. (L to R) James McConaha, Maggie Stier, Pat Blevens, Beth Muzzey, and Edna Feighner.

Two-Hundredth State Historical Marker Announced

(continued from page one)

New Hampshire's ratification of the United States Constitution.

Placement of the 200th marker at Wildwood symbolizes the ever-increasing popularity of this means of recognizing history. State markers pay tribute to local perceptions of what is interesting and significant, responding to the insights of people who cherish the values and events of their own neighborhoods. Thirty markers have been erected in the last decade—eleven in the past year alone. Many applications are awaiting renewed program funding and the research that is required to verify each statement.

Texts of all the New Hampshire state historical markers, in alphabetical order by title, may be found at:
<http://www.nh.gov/markers/index.html>.

James L. Garvin
State Architectural Historian

Have You (Re) Joined Our E-Mail Network?

The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and DHR share an e-mail network for news and messages. If you would like to add your name or organization to the list, send an e-mail message to linda.wilson@dcr.nh.gov. To respect the privacy of the list members, messages are sent as a "blind" or "undisclosed recipient" copy.

Unlike fancier automated lists, any message will set up the subscription, as long as your return address is clear. To post messages, send them to the same address for forwarding to the entire list.

There are no fees for membership and no obligations for members other than standard Internet etiquette. Members may pause or cancel their subscriptions at any time.



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